

The

Call Letter

June 2021

Vol 47, #6



QRS Red Top Tube

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

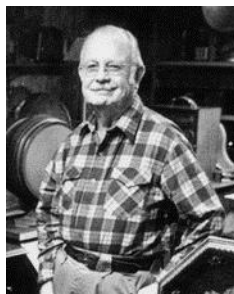
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.



Society Officers

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503) 730-4639	soundmikey14@gmail.com
Librarian	Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446	flat4pdx@gmail.com
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

QRS Red Top Tube. Photo: Mike McCrow

June Table of Contents

Announcements.....	1
President's Note	2
VP's Note and NWVRS Meeting Minutes	3
QRS Red Top Tubes by Mike McCrow	3
A Tribute to Bill De Vey by Dan Howard.....	4
A Brief History of the Transistor Radio by Larry Tobkin.....	7
May 15 Radio Show and Sale - Photo by Franklin Ouchida	11
Swap Shop	12
Speed Feldschau Picnic and Sale Flier by Sonny Clutter	13

Announcements

June 2021 meeting - Sat. June.12, 9:30 am - details in email

June 2021 Monthly Feature - Radios with a Q in their name

June Tech Talk - Richard Dielschneider: Wood Radios - Repair, Reglue, & Clamping

June Tube of the Month - QRS Red Top

Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads..

Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.

Editor's Note - Please have July Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, June 27. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too).

(No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations, **returning soon**)

Visit our web site at:

www.nwvrs.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for May 2021

by Pat Kagi

We will be holding the June meeting at the Abernethy Grange.

Many thanks to Robbie Robinson and his crew for setting up the NWVRS Spring Radio Show and Sale in Aurora on May 15th. Also many thanks for all those who set up and participated in the Verne Howell estate auction on May 29th at the Abernethy Grange.

The McCrackens will be having a radio sale on Saturday, June 5th for only club members and also a FINAL estate sale sometime in July, so watch your emails!

This year we will have a summer picnic on Saturday, July 24th at the Abernethy Grange in Oregon City. Combined with the summer picnic, we will have a radio sale where the tables are free and we will have DJ entertainment supplied by Dick Karman from Reliving Radio. We still need people to run this event. Please let us know if you can help out. There will be a car show at Fletcher Anderson's on Saturday, August 7th. Mr. Anderson has provided a table, free of charge for the NWVRS society. Fletcher reported an urgent need for automotive radio repairs, so please provide business cards and have them available to Mike McCrow or myself. Please let us know if you would like to help out at the NWVRS table.

August 14th will be the first time we meet in person at the Abernethy Grange. We plan to have a projector up and running so that we can see and hear members from across the US and they will be able to hear and see us.

PSARA has canceled their radio sale in Shoreline this year, but we will have them join us and have a radio sale in Chehalis on Saturday, August 21st. Chehalis is mid-way between Portland and Seattle. There is plenty of free parking and the set up area is undercover. More details and pictures to follow.

I believe that there are many individuals out there who have been stuck at home and could benefit from a new hobby, like collecting and restoring old radios. Please let me know if you can share your ideas on how to reach these people. They desperately need us!

Thanks and take care, Pat

VP's Message for June 2021 by Franklin Terry Ouchida

Monthly Features – Radios start with a “Q”

Share your latest project or passion! Please let me know if you are interested in doing a Tech Talk! Share your Knowledge with the Club! Zoom (and live) meeting Saturday Jun 12, 2021 at 9:30 am.

Tech Talk by Richard Dielschneider: Subject Wood Radios - Repair, reglue & clamping.

Anyone without email access that would like a phone call with urgent NWVRS information, please contact me by phone to be put on a call list. Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm for WRNZ on Zoom for a radio chat session! - It's just some thoughts. Franklin Terry Ouchida

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - May 9, 2021

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

President Pat Kagi called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

The group discussed the benefits of estate sales and disposing of items left over from estate sales. The Program Topic today is “Radios with A “Q” in the name. Larry Tobkins showed a Philco model 46-200 plastic radio and a Phillips transistor radio. Mike McCrow showed a Philco 60. Dick Howard showed a Paragon Type Three radio and a Paragon RD5 radio. Dan Howard showed a PAL crystal set and a radio shaped like a toilet. Ed Tompkins gave the treasurer's report. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as published in the May Call Letter. Mark Dinsmore and Robbie Robinson talked to the group about Amateur Radio. Both members are licensed Amateur Radio Operators (HAM). They described the interesting ability to communicate with other HAMs all over the world. They also outlined the steps to become an amateur radio operator. There were several questions from the group. Mike McCrow talked about Philco tubes. Philco manufactured a wide and complete line of vacuum tubes. The meeting was adjourned.

Tube of the Month: QRS red top tubes by Mike McCrow

Manufactured by the QRS Music Company of Chicago. The QRS red top had a red lacquer coating on top of the tube. In 1927 an ad in "Popular Radio" QRS offered a super detector power tube on a UX base, 201A type, and a full wave rectifier 280. Sometime before 1930 Raytheon took over the company after a lawsuit because of patent infringement. Because of this unpleasant takeover the QRS red top was discontinued.

Been There, Done That - A Tribute to Bill De Vey

By Dan Howard

Recently we were saddened to learn of the passing of two-term NVRS President William “Bill” J De Vey.



Bill was born in Chicago in 1940 and obtained a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois. After moving to Oregon, he earned an MBA from U of P.

Bill started at Tektronix in 1963 as a circuit designer. During his career he worked in "Conventional Instruments" and in IDD (the Information Display Division). In 1971, he was granted a patent for a transistorized analog-to-digital converter. Bill left Tek after more than 20 years and later worked for MultiComp (a Tek spinoff), Credence Corporation, and Sequent Computer Systems (later bought by IBM).

In the 1980's, Bill and his wife Nancy built a beautiful hillside 3-story home in Cannon Beach. During his retirement he was a frequent volunteer at the Cannon Beach Conference Center. Bill believed in putting his faith into action.

As a long-time amateur radio operator, Bill held an Advance class license under the call letters W7MMW. He had a fine station in his basement (complete with Tek test instruments) and enjoyed buying and selling ham gear at the annual Seaside Hamfair. Bill was also a supporter of Vintage Tek and donated equipment to the museum's collection.

After joining the NVRS in 1978, Bill was quick to begin serving in a variety of capacities:

- 1980 – Call Letter Editor (later, Associate Editor)
- 1981 – NVRS Vice President
- 1982 – NVRS President
- 1985 – Hosted NVRS display at the Seaside Hamfair
- 1985 & 1986 – NVRS auctioneer
- 1986 – NVRS President for a second term

When the society embarked on the Hunker-dyne project in the early 1980's, Bill was appointed to the "parts committee" along with Tom James, Bob Teague, and Joey Tompkins. Bill contributed the 4" knobs, wire, and various other parts for the radio.

Bill's greatest involvement with the NVRS took place in the 1970's and 1980's (the "Buena Vista Clubhouse" days). Although he remained active in radio, he allowed his membership in the NVRS to lapse in the mid-1990's corresponding with his retirement and relocation to the coast. Bill suffered a stroke in 2015 which resulted in his moving to an assisted living facility in Camas, Washington. Nancy died in July 2016 and Bill passed away on June 2, 2021.

Dick Karman echoes the thoughts of those of us who knew Bill with these words:

"Bill was an outstanding 'team player.' When Hugh Rankin couldn't do 'Our People,' Bill did it. When the Call Letter needed an editor, Bill did it. When the society needed an auctioneer, Bill did it. His willing spirit made him a delight to work with. Nancy was proud of Bill's accomplishments and was often by his side at NVRS events."

Sources:

Barrows, Chuck "Bill De Vey Obituary" QRZ.com
"Bill De Vey" TekWiki
Northwest Vintage Radio Society Archives
The Call Letter
US Patent Gazette Patent #3,599,202

A Brief History of the Transistor Radio

by Larry Tobkin

1954: The First Transistor Radio

The Regency TR-1 sold for a mere \$49.95. They were actually sold at a loss. It is estimated that about 100,000 were sold in the first year. The Regency transistor radio was manufactured until 1960, which was the TR-99 model. The TR-99 was a 7 transistor radio, and used 3 1.5 volt batteries. The TR-1 was just the beginning of the transistor radio craze.



I have been fascinated in the old tube type radios since I was a teenager and first started learning about electronics. I still am. However, a recent sad event occurred that renewed my interest in transistors and transistor radio history. My father-in law passed away last year. Not from COVID, but from old age. He was 94. While helping my wife clean out the home he lived in, for the past 30 years, I discovered a plethora of transistor radios. These radios ranged from older pocket transistors to older boom boxes and many different types of radios in between. I had repaired one of the radios for her dad many years ago. Seeing all these

transistor radios got me thinking about the invention of the transistor and the dawn of the transistor radio.

I have read numerous stories and articles on the internet, and the information about transistors and transistor radios is abundant and interesting. So, most of what I am about to impart could be made into volumes, but I'll keep it brief.

The first transistor was invented, or rather successfully demonstrated in Bell Labs December 23, 1947 by William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain. This first operational transistor was a point-contact transistor. It was based on the principle of the of the galena crystal detector, except, they used germanium. Shockley went on to develop the "bipolar" transistor. This type of transistor junction was far superior to the point-contact version. The term "transistor" was coined by John R. Pierce in 1948.

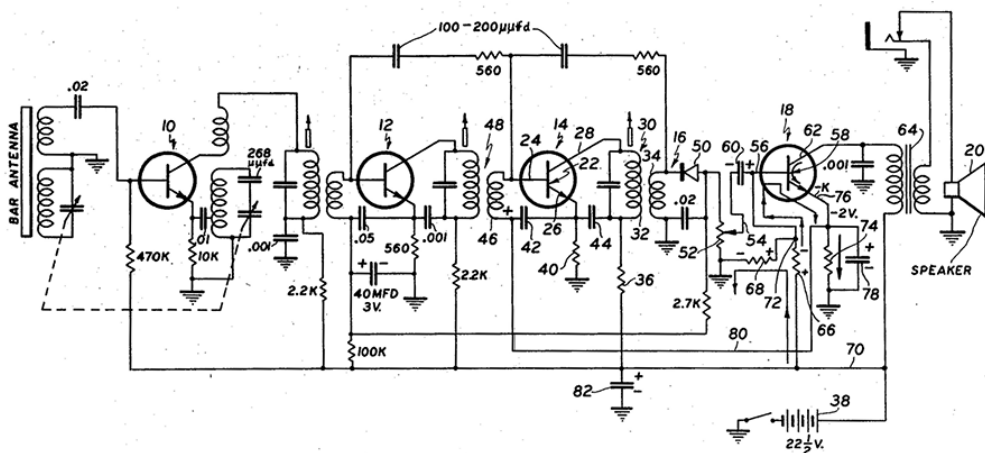
However, before the first operating transistor was demonstrated, Julius Edgar Lilienfeld applied for the first patents on the principle of the transistor in 1925. His patent was actually for a field effect transistor. It is unknown if any transistors theorized by Lilienfeld were ever manufactured. Tubes were still in their infancy but they were the big technology of the day. About 9 years later, a German physicist, named Oskar Heil is also given credit for inventing the first field-effect transistor. It seemed odd to me that a transistor radio wasn't built way

back then. There are others who dabbled in this new technology, but bottom line is the transistor really started life in 1947.

Bell Labs was trying to license their BJT transistor to manufacturers. Bell found a small company named Texas Instruments, who bought a license. TI designed a transistor radio, and, took their prototype around to all the USA radio manufacturers: Philco, Magnavox, etc. They hit a stone wall. No radio company had the slightest interest! (OBVIOUSLY, there was no market for tiny pocket-size radios. Who would buy such a thing?)

Early transistors were very expensive to manufacture and the tolerance of transistors was not consistent. Texas Instrument was a transistor manufacturer looking to get the transistor into the main stream. In the spring of 1954, TI contacted an engineering firm named “Industrial Development Engineering Associates” (IDEA). The Regency division of this company was tasked to develop and market transistor radios.

Prototype transistor radios built prior to the Regency TR-1 required manually selecting and matching electrical components to make them work, which in turn created a prohibitive cost per unit for large-scale production. The “transistor radio apparatus” was patented by IDEA’s Richard Koch in 1955. Koch designed a feedback circuit that accommodated the tolerance of production-run components and let them be soldered directly into the boards without manual selection. Note the schematic for the first commercially available transistor radio, called Regency TR-1. Note all the transistors in this radio are NPN, and the battery is a whopping 22.5 volts. The sound was low quality, but it was small and easily portable.



What happened next, you might ask. Well, one of the most successful companies to manufacture transistor radios, was Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo.

As you might have guessed, they named their transistor radio Sony. Sony's first transistor radio was the model TR-55. The TR-55 was only sold in Japan except for about 50 units that were exported to Canada. Sony's next offering was the TR-63, and was released to the US in 1957. This radio was touted as the world's first truly pocket-sized radio, and was the first transistor radio to use all miniature components. The TR-63 radio was a 6 transistor set using a 9 volt battery and sold for \$39.95. Sony gave the Regency TR-1 some competition. The term pocketable came from Japan. Sony's TR-63 was just a skosh smaller than the regency TR-1, but it was still a bit too large to fit nicely in a regular sized shirt pocket. So, Sony had custom shirts with larger pockets made for their salesmen. This made their TR-63 radio "pocketable".

Of course, other U.S. companies started marketing and selling transistor radios like Emerson, Zenith, Motorola, Bulova etcetera. Probably some of the companies that did not see any merit in buying a license from Bell labs for the transistor started making transistor radios.

As time went on, manufacturing techniques for transistors improved. The transistor was constantly being improved and shrunk in size. Transistor radios were manufactured in all different sizes and configurations. TVs were using solid state technology. The computer industry latched on to transistors, in the late 50s. A radio receiver can now be put on an IC. You can hold a device in your hand that has thousands of transistors and more computing power than a room full of computers back in the day. Solid state technology, eventually, made vacuum tubes obsolete. However, if it weren't for vacuum tubes paving the way, the transistor may have never been invented.

Early transistor radios are collectible. Some of today's most popular collectibles were made by Arvin, Admiral, Allied Knight, Boy's, Bulova, Channel Master, Emerson, Eico, GE, Global, Grundig, Hitachi, Heathkit, Hoffman, Kobe Kogyo, Lafayette, Olson, Motorola, Magnavox, Nordmende, Panasonic, Philco, RCA, Regency, Sony, Silvertone, Standard Micronic, Sylvania, Tokai, Toshiba, Realtone, Wilco, Westinghouse, and Zenith, just to name a few. So, if you like tube radios but have a collection of transistor radios also, you're not alone. The brief history of the transistor radio has lasted about 67 years.

NWVRS Spring Radio Show and Sale in Aurora on May 15th
Photo by Franklin Ouchida



Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.

Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Jan and Glenn Anderson	425 750 7600	Longview
Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) \$20. Also a Philco Model 20 Table Top for \$70 and a Silvertone Model 6074 1930 Tabletop \$50. Have a good day. Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565

Hi everyone. I am in need of a meter lens for a Heathkit IM-32 VTVM. Parts instrument, or meter with lens. Thanks. Mike McCrow 503-7304639

I collect and restore record players / phonographs with tubes, any and all table tops, portables, even Consoles! If you have one with tubes that is in your way, and that you would like to get rid of or sell cheaply, please get in touch with me. I also will repair or restore yours if you need help in that way. Email me a picture, or give me a call. Thanks! John Livingston 503-708-2987

Military radios: 2 ea. R392 receivers, 2 ea. R662 transceivers, 1 ea. AM3349 400 watt RF amplifier. Complete but untested and came from the estate of a very active local ham. Lots of cables and manuals too. \$1200 for everything. Tektronix 575 curve tracer. Includes the high voltage testing mod and Tek cart and original manual. Does not power on. No further troubleshooting has been done. - \$350 Bill Holeman bpasok@live.com

For sale: Edison Chalet diamond disc wind up phonograph. Works well and is fairly uncommon to find. \$125.00

Victor Victrola Model IX wind up phonograph works well & in nice shape. \$150.00

Unidyne B 515SB-G18 microphone. Condition unknown. \$10.00

Old horn speaker and base. No guts inside but looks real neat. \$15.00

Pics available. Contact Pat at patkagi@yahoo.com Thanks, Pat

Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Presents Our **Annual** **Speed Feldschau**

*back-yard picnic and
vintage radio Sale*



Saturday July 24, 2021

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



*Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, buns, napkins,
tableware and all the "fixins" will be
catered by: "Arlene Cuisine"*
www.ArleneCuisine.com

Entertainment provided by:
Dick Karman - Reliving Radio
www.relivingradio.com

Tables provided free for vendors selling radios & related items

For more info, call Robbie @ 503 810-0565

Location:

the

Abernethy Grange Hall

15745 S Harley Ave

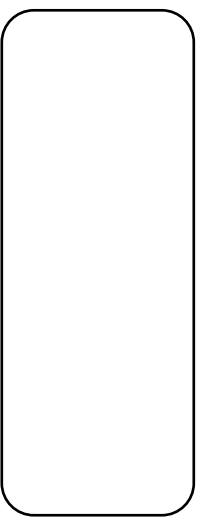
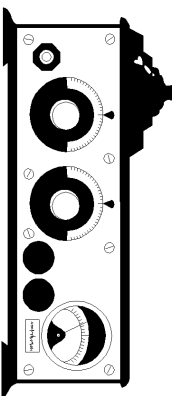
Oregon City

Public Welcome





NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



FIRST CLASS MAIL